

**Va. Guard earns multiple national recognitions**

On page 2: Busy week for Va. Defense Force

## 1032nd Trans. Co. wins national award

The Virginia Guard's Gate-City based 1032nd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group has won the Department of the Army Philip A. Connelly Award For Excellence In Army Food Service in the Army Guard Field Kitchen Category, according to an announcement made May 13, 2013, by the Department of the Army. The award is another recent national recognition of the Virginia Guard.

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, announced April 20, 2013, that two Virginia National Guard battalions have been recognized as the best in the nation by the National Guard Association and the Association of the United States Army, and a Virginia Guard military police company earned the highest marksmanship scores in the nation.

"The Virginia National Guard has once again demonstrated that they are among the best in the nation," said Governor Bob McDonnell.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/21/3667/>



Soldiers from the 1032nd Transportation Company prepare an evening meal for the national-level Connelly competition Nov. 2, 2012, at Fort Pickett.

### Virginia National Guard News Headlines

#### Va. Guard honors state employees at recognition luncheons

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, and other senior leaders honored and recognized Virginia Department of Military Affairs state employees during luncheons May 8, 2013, at Camp Pendleton and May 10 at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/15/3640/>

#### Virginia National Guard celebrates 406th birthday

Senior leaders, Soldiers, Airmen and civilians employees gathered to celebrate the 406th birthday of the Virginia National Guard with a cake cutting May 14, 2013, at the Joint Force Headquarters in Sandston.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/14/3629/>

#### Virginia Guard officer candidates get close encounter with history

In 21 years, Col. Thom Morgan has only missed teaching Va. Guard officer candidates military history one time, and that was when he was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. He and his father, Lonnie Morgan, work together each year to give the candidates a unique first-hand look into Virginia's military history.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/19/3674/>

#### Va. Guard Soldiers compete in 2013 Adjutant General's Rifle Match

More than 55 Virginia Guard Soldiers from around the state competed both individually and as teams at the Adjutant General's Rifle Match hosted by the Virginia Guard Marksmanship Training Unit May 18, 2013, at Fort Pickett

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/20/3710/>

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### May 27: Memorial Day events

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, will lay a memorial wreath in honor of fallen Virginia Guard personnel at the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2013, at 10 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial.

The Virginia National Guard's Clifton Forge-based 29th Division Band will provide ceremonial music and Col. Thomas Morgan, Virginia National Guard director of manpower and personnel, will be among the guest speakers at the annual Memorial Day Tribute Ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery at 10 a.m. in Amelia.

More info:

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/23/3681/>

# VDF holds training muster and supports festival

In a busy week for the Virginia Defense Force, more than 140 personnel took part in the annual training muster at Fort Pickett April 26-28, 2013, then approximately 120 members augmented local law enforcement for the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival May 3-4.

VDF members from units across the state augmented local law enforcement by operating traffic control points throughout the city and providing mission command and sustainment support out of the Virginia National Guard's Cherry-Beasley Readiness Center for the Apple Blossom Festival. After mustering and conducting administrative inprocessing and health checks, members of the VDF were sworn in as special deputies by the Winchester Sheriff, then deployed across the city to set up TCPs to help ensure traffic flow for an event that is expected to bring tens of thousands of visitors to the Winchester area.

"Having the VDF here eliminates a whole lot of headaches for us, and we couldn't do it without them," said Lennie Millholland, sheriff of city of Winchester. "If they weren't here, it would be mass chaos. I am proud of them and glad they are here to help us."

The organization's annual training muster at Fort Pickett is conducted to improve their proficiency in a number of different emergency response capabilities. Personnel conducted training for Incident Management Assistance Teams and Mobile Command Post operations, and new VDF personnel conducted Initial Entry Training and received diplomas April 28. In addition, the VDF Aviation Battalion conducted simulated aerial damage assessment missions and tested air to ground communications with the MCPs.

"We have come a long way in our training," Maj. Gen. (Va.) John Taylor, commander of the VDF. "It used to be very basic, but now we are integrating our operations at a much higher level."

Taylor thinks that the VDF continues to make improvements every year as the organization grows and continues to focus on quality training and developing more professionalism in the organization.



Members of the Virginia Defense Force support the Apple Blossom Festival May 3, 2013, in Winchester.

"The quality has gone up, the diversity has gone up and the standards have gone up," Taylor said. "If you don't have high standards, you won't ever achieve anything. We have a strong foundation to continue building for the future."

As part of the Virginia National Guard's overall response capability, the VDF is assigned specific response packages that can be called up on state active duty when authorized by the Governor. Two of the primary response packages for the VDF are the IMAT and MCP. IMATs deploy with National Guard mission commanders during a response operation to assist with providing communications capability and help the commander manage information and reporting requirements.

The VDF is an all-volunteer force authorized by the Code of Virginia reporting to the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/08/3661/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### 2013 Memorial Day Message from Maj. Gen. Long

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/23/3686/>

### 192nd Intel Squadron welcomes new commander

<http://www.192fw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123349637>

### Aviation battalion welcomes new commander

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/21/3690/>

### 3-116th Soldiers prepare for Annual Training

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/22/3701/>

### Photos: Aviators conduct training with first responders

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157633508994595/>

### Photos: Va. Guard Soldiers transport pet shelter supplies

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157633579028363/>

### Photos: Va. Guard and VDF assist with sheltering exercise

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157633607771590/>

### Virginia National Guard on Twitter

<http://www.twitter.com/VaNationalGuard>

### Virginia National Guard on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/VaGuardPAO>

<http://www.facebook.com/VaNationalGuard>



Members of the Virginia Defense Force take part in the organization's annual training muster April 27, 2013, at Fort Pickett.